

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of visualizing business agreement interactions, the method comprising:
 - dividing parties into at least three types;
 - displaying one or more parties of a first type as nodes in a first region of a view window;
 - displaying one or more parties of a second type as nodes in a second region of the view window;
 - displaying one or more parties of a third type as nodes in a third region of the view window, wherein the third region is at least substantially between the first and second region; and
 - displaying agreements between parties as lines between corresponding nodes.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more parties of the first type are suppliers for the one or more parties of the third type.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more parties of the second type are customers for the one or more parties of the third type.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first region is an arc of a circle, and wherein the second region is an opposing arc of the circle.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the third region is a circle diameter that separates the first and second regions.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the third region is a line separating the first and second regions.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein said lines are displayed with at least one characteristic indicative of whether a violation has occurred.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one characteristic is color.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one characteristic is animation.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one characteristic is further indicative of a violation severity.
11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
displaying a hierarchical tree of business agreement information; and
highlighting associated items in the view window as a user selects items in the hierarchical tree.
12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
displaying agreement conditions between the one or more parties of the first type and a particular party of the third type as parallel lines in one window region;
displaying agreement conditions between the one or more parties of the second type and the particular party of the third type as parallel lines in a second window region; and
changing one or more of the parallel lines as a function of time to display violations as a function of time.
13. A method of visualizing business agreement interactions, the method comprising:
displaying agreement conditions between a first party and one or more parties of a first type as one or more noncrossing groups of parallel lines in one region of a view window; and
displaying agreement conditions between the first party and one or more parties of a second type as one or more noncrossing groups of parallel lines in a second region of a view window,

wherein said lines are displayed with at least one characteristic indicative of whether a violation of a represented agreement condition has occurred.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the first party is represented by a line separating the first region from the second region.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one characteristic is color.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein said displaying actions are animated to show a violation occurrence sequence over time.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one characteristic is further indicative of a violation severity.

18. The method of claim 13, further comprising changing the view window as a function of time to display a time sequence of violations.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein parties of the first type are suppliers of the first party, and wherein parties of the second type are customers of the second party.

20. The method of claim 13, wherein agreement conditions between the parties are shown as a time series to indicate an order in which violations occur.

21. An information carrier medium configured to provide software for visualizing business agreement interactions to a computer, wherein the software configures the computer to:

divide parties into at least three types;

display one or more parties of a first type as nodes in a first region of a view window;

display one or more parties of a second type as nodes in a second region of the view window;

display one or more parties of a third type as nodes in a third region of the view window, wherein the third region is at least substantially between the first and second region; and

display agreements between parties as lines between corresponding nodes.

22. The medium of claim 21, wherein the one or more parties of the first type are suppliers for the one or more parties of the third type, and wherein the one or more parties of the second type are customers for the one or more parties of the third type.

23. The medium of claim 21, wherein said lines are displayed with at least one characteristic indicative of whether a violation has occurred.

24. The medium of claim 21, wherein the software further configures the computer to:

display agreement conditions between the one or more parties of the first type and a particular party of the third type as parallel lines in one window region;

display agreement conditions between the one or more parties of the second type and the particular party of the third type as parallel lines in a second window region; and

change one or more of the parallel lines as a function of time to display violations as a function of time.

25. An information carrier medium configured to provide software for visualizing business agreement interactions to a computer, wherein the software configures the computer to:

display agreement conditions between a first party and one or more parties of a first type as one or more noncrossing groups of parallel lines in

one region of a view window; and
display agreement conditions between the first party and one or more
parties of a second type as one or more noncrossing groups of
parallel lines in a second region of a view window,
wherein said lines are displayed with at least one characteristic indicative
of whether a violation of a represented agreement condition has
occurred.

26. The medium of claim 25, wherein the first party is represented by a line
separating the first region from the second region.